

13 Creation Pen and Brush: And God called the dry *land* Earth



⁹ Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.”

So, in the beginning YHWH created a place for humans to live which met all our needs (in my previous post I made a useful list for you on how YHWH meets our everyday needs); a place which He could watch over and see our every move, as we read in Psalm 33:

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. ¹³ The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. ¹⁴ From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

Then in Hebrews 4:13 not only can YHWH see us, but he knows us: *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

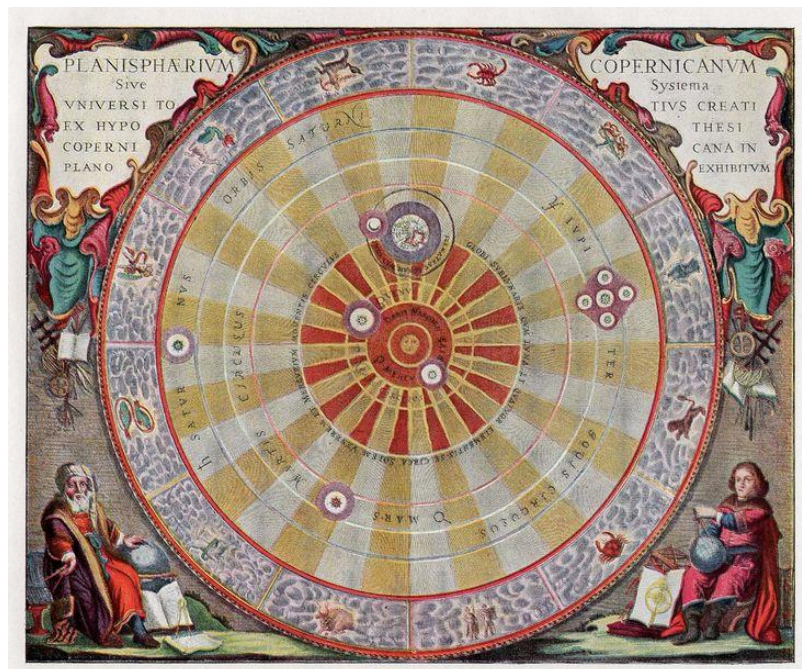
YHWH has a good view of everything from His mighty throne: *O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.*
Isaiah 37: 16



Hebrew cosmology shows us the position of heaven and where we are placed in relation to this. There are some hundred or so biblical verses which support this view of the earth. But to move forward on this I have done some research about when and how this Hebrew view of our world changed and this goes back to at least 500BCE.

Ernie Tretkoff writes that by around 500 B.C., most ancient Greeks believed that Earth was round, not flat. But they had no idea how big the planet was until about 240 B.C., when Eratosthenes devised a clever method of estimating

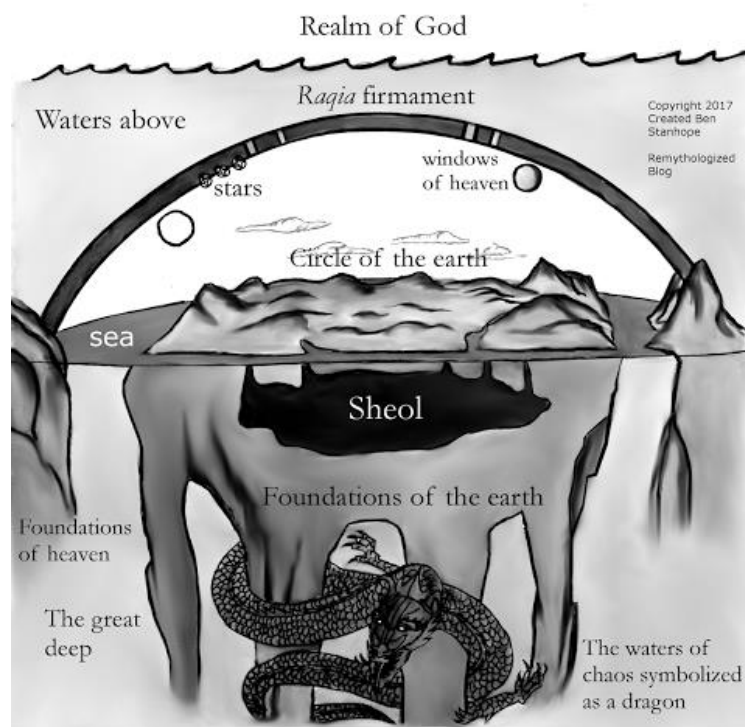
its circumference. It was around 500 B.C. that Pythagoras first proposed a spherical Earth, mainly on aesthetic grounds rather than on any physical evidence. Like many Greeks, he believed the sphere was the most perfect shape. Possibly the first to propose a spherical Earth based on actual physical evidence was Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)--- Around this time Greek philosophers had begun to believe the world could be explained by natural processes rather than invoking the gods, and early astronomers began making physical measurements, in part to better predict the seasons. The first person to determine the size of Earth was Eratosthenes of Cyrene.



In the early 1500s, when virtually everyone believed Earth was the centre of the universe, Polish scientist Nicolaus Copernicus proposed that the planets instead revolved around the sun. Although his model wasn't completely correct, it formed a strong foundation for future scientists to build on and improve mankind's understanding of the motion of heavenly bodies---Born on Feb. 19, 1473, in Poland, Copernicus travelled to Italy at the age of 18 to attend college, where he prepared for a career in the church. As part of his education, he studied astrology — reading the stars to learn about future events — because at the time it was felt important for priests and doctors. Astronomy, the motion

of heavenly bodies, was an important element of this--- In 1514, Copernicus distributed a handwritten book to his friends that set out his view of the universe. In it, he proposed that the centre of the universe was not Earth, but that the sun lay near it. It wasn't until he lay on his deathbed at the age of 70 that Copernicus published his book, *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* ("On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres"). In it, Copernicus established that the planets orbited the sun rather than the Earth. He lay out his model of the solar system and the path of the planets. (From space.com)

ANCIENT ISRAELITE COSMOLOGY



THE FIRMAMENT Gen 1:7-8; Job 37:18; Ex 24:10; Ezk 1:22-26	WATERS ABOVE Gen 1:7-8; Ps 148:4-6	REALM OF GOD Ps 104:2-3; 29:10; Job 22:12-14	WINDOWS OF HEAVEN Gen 7:11; 8:2; Is 24:18
CIRCLE OF EARTH Isa 40:22; Job 26:10; Prov 8:27	FOUNDATIONS OF EARTH Job 9:6; Ps 75:3; 102:25	FOUNDATIONS OF HEAVEN Job 26:11; 2 Sam 22:8	THE CHAOS DRAGON Ps 74:13-15; Job 7:12; 9:13; 26:12-13

Nola Taylor Tillman, from space.com, writes: *In 1609, Galileo turned his telescope to the heavens. He was the first to see craters on the moon, he discovered sunspots, and he tracked the phases of Venus. The rings of Saturn puzzled him, appearing as lobes and vanishing when they were edge-on — but*

he saw them, which was more than can be said of his contemporaries. In Galileo's lifetime, all celestial bodies were thought to orbit the Earth. Supported by the Catholic Church, teaching opposite of this system was declared heresy in 1615. In 1616, he was summoned to Rome and warned not to teach or write about this controversial theory. But in 1632, believing that he could write on the subject if he treated it as a mathematical proposition, he published work on the Copernican system. He was found guilty of heresy, and was placed under house arrest for the remaining nine years of his life.

Sometime after this the Catholic Church continued to battle over the geocentric and heliocentric earth models, finally settling on allowing the teaching of both in 1822. Some suspect that the Catholic Church had secretly made this decision years before its 1822 declaration. The Church did not stick to its biblical guns and allowed science to dictate the road ahead in the whole argument, at which point they threw the metaphorical baby out with the bathwater and turned their back on the Hebrew cosmology of YHWH's creation.

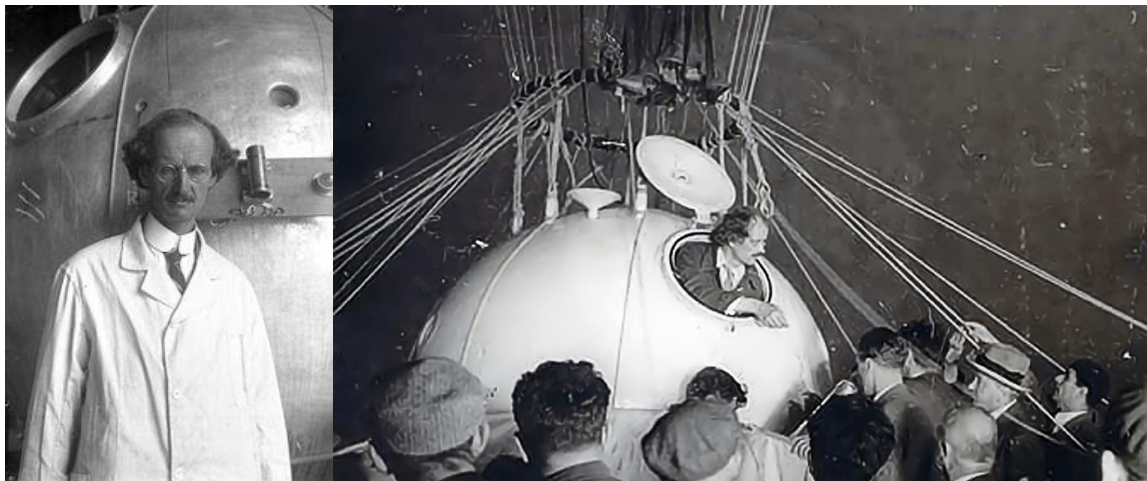
*⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.*

*⁵The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land. Psalm 95*



But we need evidence of what you are saying, I hear my dear reader saying. So I would like to tell you about a scientist who wanted to make some tests on the earth's stratosphere (or could it in some way be something to do with YHWH's firmament?). His name was Auguste Piccard and he and his colleague, Charles Kipfer, launched themselves into space, as it were, back in May 1931.

Auguste Piccard was a physicist whose aim was to test the air at 50,000 feet high. So he created an airtight ball-shaped canister into which two men could fit and which was equipped with various instruments and a supply of oxygen, needed at such a great height. The canister was attached to a huge yellow balloon which pulled the scientists up to heights never before reached and, in fact, the men reached almost ten miles high. The small portholes in the side of the canister allowed the scientists to look out at the view of earth.



Piccard and Kipfer's explorative journey was reported in many newspapers of the time but perhaps the most interesting piece was reported in Popular Science Magazine of August 1931. In this article (and remember that this is a science magazine and not a daily rag!), it was recorded that: *"Through portholes, the observers saw the earth through copper-coloured, then bluish, haze. It seemed a flat disk with upturned edge. At the ten-mile level the sky appeared a deep, dark blue."*

*It is he that sits upon the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are as grasshoppers;
that stretches out the heavens as a curtain,
and spreads them out as a tent to dwell in. Isaiah 40 v 22*



Piccard was a scientist recording, on his technical instruments and through his visual observations, what he could see.

According to Alina Bradford from Live Science: *Science is a systematic and logical approach to discovering how things in the universe work. It is also the body of knowledge accumulated through discoveries about all the things in the universe. The word “science” is derived from the Latin word scientia, which is knowledge based on demonstrable and reproducible data, according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary. True to this definition, science aims for measurable results through testing and analysis. Science is based on fact, not opinion or preferences. The process of science is designed to challenge ideas through research.*

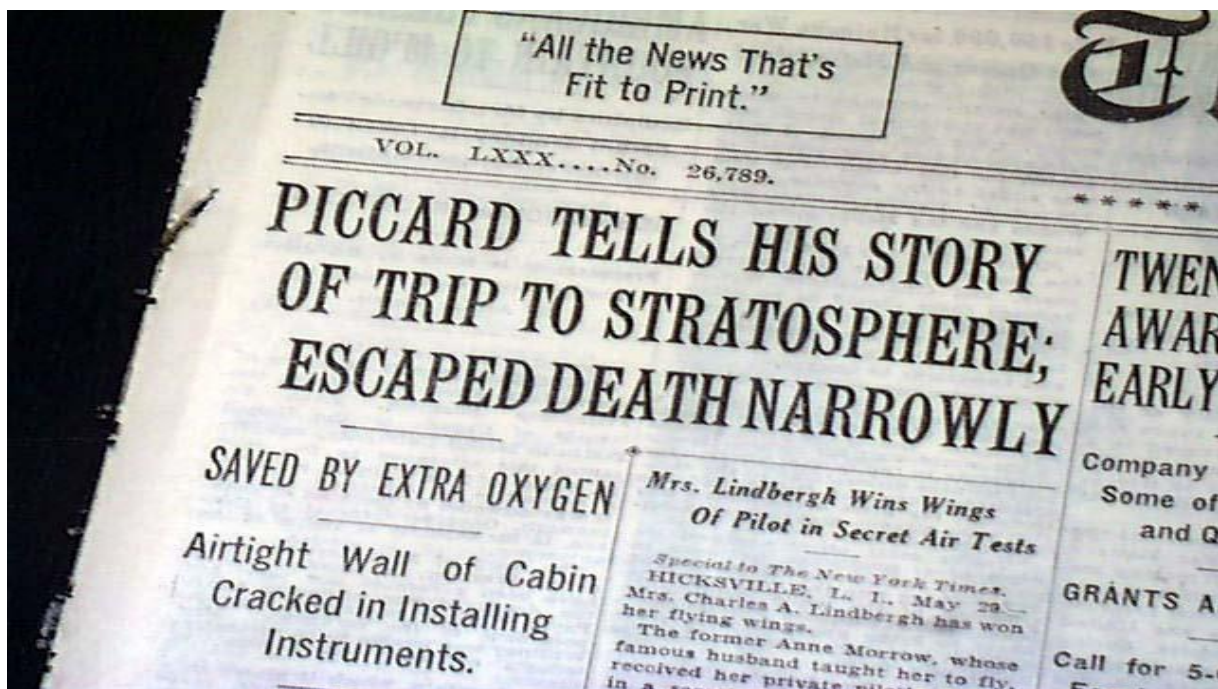
From this clear definition, I ask the question – did Piccard and Kipfer use science “for measurable results through testing and analysis”? My answer:

they took a journey up into the stratosphere, took samples of the air (which could be later tested in a laboratory) and used their eyes to note visual images such as “blue air” seen in the on-board cylinders and “a flat disk with upturned edge” seen through the portholes.

*⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.*

*⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land. Psalm 95:4-5*

And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands... Hebrews 1: 10



This is just a short article for you to ponder upon. And for those hundred or so bible verses about Flat Earth I mentioned earlier, I suggest you look at

www.worldslastchance.com Flat Earth Bible Verses (more than 200). It makes an interesting read.

Yvonne